

MONTANA **FWP**

«ADDRESS1»

«ADDRESS2»

«CITY», «STATE» «ZIP»-«ZIP4»

Dear Montana Household:

The University of Montana, in collaboration with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), is conducting a study about grizzly bear management in Montana. You were randomly selected as a Montana resident to receive this survey – your responses are important and will help FWP to better manage grizzlies across Montana.

The questions in this survey explore your general views about grizzlies and your attitudes toward grizzly bear management actions. Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary – you may skip any question you do not wish to answer or stop the survey at any time. All your answers will be confidential – we will only report summaries of our findings. The identification number on your survey is there so we can check your name off the mailing list when you return your questionnaire, but your name will never be linked to your responses.

It should take about 15-20 minutes to complete the questionnaire. When you are done, **please use the postage-paid envelope to return the questionnaire to us.** Completing and returning the questionnaire implies your consent to participate in this study.

If you have any questions, please contact me (Alex Metcalf at the University of Montana) by phone at 406-243-4448 or by email at [alex.metcalf@umontana.edu](mailto:alex.metcalf@umontana.edu) or you can contact Mike Lewis at FWP by phone at 406-444-4308 or by email at [mlewis@mt.gov](mailto:mlewis@mt.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alex Metcalf", written over a light blue circular stamp.

Dr. Alexander L. Metcalf  
W.A. Franke College of Forestry & Conservation  
University of Montana

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Martha Williams", written over a light blue circular stamp.

Martha Williams  
Director  
Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks



# Grizzly Bear Survey

You have been randomly selected to help Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks (FWP) understand how Montanans like you view grizzly bear management. This survey has 8 sections with questions on your views about grizzly bears and their relationships with humans in Montana. Your responses are important – please answer questions carefully.

Are you the adult age 18 or older in your household who will have the next birthday?

- ☐ Yes → Please continue
- ☐ No → Please have the adult in your household who will have the next birthday complete the survey

## Section 1 – Introduction

1. Here is a list of possible reasons why people live in Montana. Please indicate how important each item is to you as a reason for living in Montana using the 1 to 5 scale, where 1 is “Not at all Important” and 5 is “Extremely Important”.  
(For each row, please circle only one number.)

	Not at all Important	Somewhat Important	Moderately Important	Very Important	Extremely Important
Family	1	2	3	4	5
Solitude	1	2	3	4	5
Recreation	1	2	3	4	5
Rural lifestyle	1	2	3	4	5
Job	1	2	3	4	5
Community	1	2	3	4	5
Hunting	1	2	3	4	5
Nature	1	2	3	4	5

Other reasons (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Grizzly bears... (Please check only one box.)

- ☐ ...live very far away from me
- ☐ ...live somewhat far away from me
- ☐ ...live in the same area as me, but I haven't seen any near my home
- ☐ ...live in the same area as me and I have seen some near my home
- ☐ I don't know

3. In a few words, please tell us about your views on grizzly bears in Montana.

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## Section 2 – Your Views on Grizzly Bears

The following questions ask you about your views on the risks and benefits of grizzly bears and where you think grizzly bears belong in Montana.

4. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Please use the 1 to 5 scale, where 1 is “Strongly Disagree” and 5 is “Strongly Agree”.

*(For each row, please circle only one number.)*

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree
I feel threatened by grizzly bears	1	2	3	4	5
I think grizzly bears are beautiful animals	1	2	3	4	5
Grizzly bears limit my recreational opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
I travel to see grizzly bears	1	2	3	4	5
Grizzly bears are a burden I’d rather not deal with	1	2	3	4	5
I think grizzly bears are important for ecosystem health	1	2	3	4	5
I avoid recreating in areas with grizzly bears	1	2	3	4	5
I enjoy knowing that grizzly bears exist in Montana, even if I never see one	1	2	3	4	5
I am concerned about road closures to protect grizzly bear habitat	1	2	3	4	5
I think grizzly bears can positively contribute to the outdoor economy in Montana	1	2	3	4	5

5. Think about where grizzly bears currently exist in Montana. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Please use the 1 to 5 scale, where 1 is “Strongly Disagree” and 5 is “Strongly Agree”.

*(For each row, please circle only one number.)*

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree
I think grizzly bears pose a safety risk to people I care about	1	2	3	4	5
I feel that my personal safety is threatened by grizzly bears	1	2	3	4	5
I am concerned about grizzly bears damaging things that I care about	1	2	3	4	5
Grizzly bears negatively affect my economic well-being	1	2	3	4	5

6. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Please use the 1 to 5 scale, where 1 is “Strongly Disagree” and 5 is “Strongly Agree”.

*(For each row, please circle only one number.)*

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree
I think grizzly bears do not belong where people live	1	2	3	4	5
I think grizzly bears have a right to exist in Montana	1	2	3	4	5
I think grizzly bears do not belong in places where people recreate	1	2	3	4	5
I think grizzly bear populations are expanding naturally	1	2	3	4	5
I think grizzly bears should not be anywhere in Montana	1	2	3	4	5
I think people should learn to live with grizzly bears near their homes	1	2	3	4	5
I think grizzly bears are being imposed on me by other people	1	2	3	4	5
I think grizzly bears are part of what makes Montana special	1	2	3	4	5

7. I think grizzly bear populations in Montana are... *(Please check only one box.)*
- ☐ ...much too low
  - ☐ ...too low
  - ☐ ...the right size now
  - ☐ ...too high
  - ☐ ...much too high
  - ☐ I don't know
8. I think grizzly bear populations where I live are... *(Please check only one box.)*
- ☐ ...much too low
  - ☐ ...too low
  - ☐ ...the right size now
  - ☐ ...too high
  - ☐ ...much too high
  - ☐ I don't know
9. Ten years from now, I anticipate that grizzly bears will... *(Please check only one box.)*
- ☐ ...live very far away from me
  - ☐ ...live somewhat far away from me
  - ☐ ...live in the same area as me, but it is unlikely I will have seen any near my home
  - ☐ ...live in the same area as me and it is likely I will have seen some near my home
  - ☐ I don't know
10. Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statement about grizzly bears. *(Please check only one box.)*
- "It is important to maintain a self-sustaining grizzly bear population in Montana."*
- ☐ Strongly disagree
  - ☐ Disagree
  - ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
  - ☐ Agree
  - ☐ Strongly agree
11. In a few words, please describe what you believe 'successful' grizzly bear management would look like in Montana.

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### Section 3 – Emotional Response to Grizzly Bears

The following questions ask how you would feel in response to a scenario involving a grizzly bear. Please indicate how you would feel across three different scales of nervous to relaxed, upset to pleased, and scared to not scared using the -3 to +3 scale, where -3 is nervous and +3 is relaxed, -3 is upset and +3 is pleased, and -3 is scared and +3 is not scared.

(For each row, please circle only one number.)

12. If you were on a hike in an undeveloped area of the state and saw a grizzly bear in the distance, to what extent would you feel...

Nervous			Relaxed		
-3	-2	-1	+1	+2	+3

Upset			Pleased		
-3	-2	-1	+1	+2	+3

Scared			Not scared		
-3	-2	-1	+1	+2	+3

13. If you were on a walk near your home and saw a grizzly bear in the distance, to what extent would you feel...

Nervous			Relaxed		
-3	-2	-1	+1	+2	+3

Upset			Pleased		
-3	-2	-1	+1	+2	+3

Scared			Not scared		
-3	-2	-1	+1	+2	+3

## Section 4 – Grizzly Bear Management

State and federal wildlife agencies can take a variety of actions to manage grizzly bears, including monitoring, research, education and outreach to the public. In some instances, grizzly bears involved in conflict might be relocated to another area, removed to a zoo, or euthanized (i.e., put to death). Currently, while under federal protection, hunting grizzly bears is illegal in the lower-48 states. If hunting became legal, state agencies could initiate regulated hunting of grizzly bears. The following questions ask about your current satisfaction or dissatisfaction with grizzly bear management and your views toward a possible grizzly bear hunting season.

14. How satisfied are you with grizzly bear management in Montana? *(Please check only one box.)*

- ☐ Very unsatisfied
- ☐ Unsatisfied
- ☐ Neither unsatisfied nor satisfied
- ☐ Satisfied
- ☐ Very satisfied

15. Overall, how would you rate the state of grizzly bear management in Montana. *(Please check only one box.)*

- ☐ Very unsuccessful
- ☐ Unsuccessful
- ☐ Neither unsuccessful nor successful
- ☐ Successful
- ☐ Very successful

16. Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statement about grizzly bear management. *(Please check only one box.)*

*“Current grizzly bear management does not meet my expectations.”*

- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Strongly agree

17. What statement best reflects your views toward a potential grizzly bear hunting season? *(Please check only one box.)*

- ☐ Grizzly bears should never be hunted
- ☐ I would support a very limited grizzly bear hunting season that does not affect their population size
- ☐ I would support enough grizzly bear hunting to manage their population size
- ☐ I would support as much grizzly bear hunting as possible



18. Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statement about hunting grizzly bears. (Please check only one box.)

*“Regulated hunting of grizzly bears should be used as a tool to reduce grizzly bear-human conflict.”*

- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Strongly agree

19. Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statement about hunting grizzly bears. (Please check only one box.)

*“People should have the opportunity to hunt grizzly bears as long as their population can withstand hunting pressure.”*

- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Strongly agree

## Section 5 – Reducing Conflict with Grizzly Bears

Grizzly bears can be attracted to human-related food items (such as garbage, bird feeders, pet food, crops, fruit trees, livestock, farm animals, fowl, beehives, or grills/smokers) which can increase conflict with humans. The following questions ask about actions people can take to deter grizzly bear attraction to these foods and reduce the potential for grizzly bear-human conflict.

20. Please indicate whether or not you have taken the following actions to reduce the potential for grizzly bear-human conflict within the past three years, or indicate your willingness to take this action in the future.

*(For each row, please circle only one number.)*

	I would not be willing to do this action	I have not done this action in the past three years, but would be willing to in the future	I have done this action in the past three years	This action is not applicable to me
Secure attractants on your property	1	2	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Follow food storage guidelines on public lands	1	2	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carry bear spray when recreating and/or hunting	1	2	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Participate in livestock carcass removal programs	1	2	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alter livestock practices to mitigate risk of grizzly bear predation	1	2	3	<input type="checkbox"/>

21. In the past three years, have you carried a firearm to deter grizzly bears?

- ☐ No  
☐ Yes

22. Do you think that a firearm or bear spray is more effective at preventing a grizzly bear attack? *(Please check only one box.)*

- ☐ Firearm  
☐ Firearms and bear spray are equally effective  
☐ Bear spray  
☐ I don't know

23. Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statement about hunting grizzly bears. (Please check only one box.)

*“Hunting grizzly bears will make them more wary of humans.”*

- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Strongly agree

## Section 6 –Wildlife Agencies & Public Input

The following questions ask about your attitudes toward the actions of wildlife management agencies and the opportunity for public input on grizzly bear management decisions.

24. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks (FWP)? Please use the 1 to 5 scale, where 1 is “Strongly Disagree” and 5 is “Strongly Agree”.

(For each row, please circle only one number.)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree	I Don't Know
I trust that FWP knows how to effectively manage grizzly bear populations	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
I trust that FWP thinks in a similar way as I do about grizzly bears	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
I trust that FWP knows how to respond to grizzly bear-human conflict	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
I trust that FWP provides the public with the best available information on how to reduce grizzly bear-human conflict	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
I trust that FWP tells the truth about grizzly bears and their population status	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
I trust that FWP would take similar actions as I would to manage grizzly bears	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>

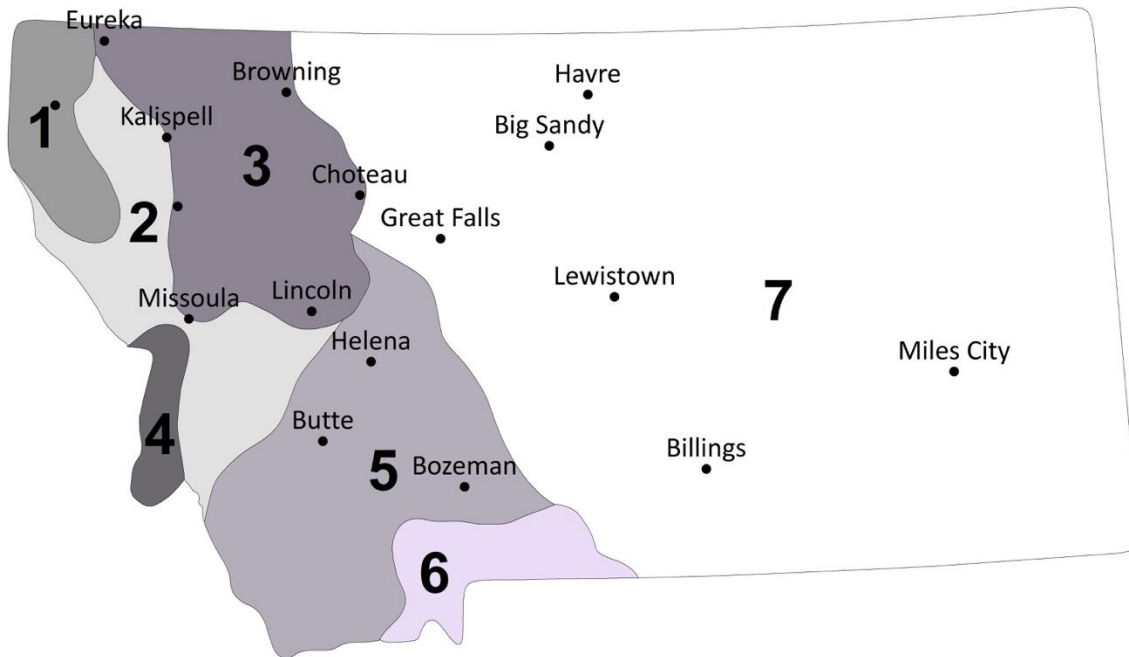
25. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Please use the 1 to 5 scale, where 1 is “Strongly Disagree” and 5 is “Strongly Agree”.

(For each row, please circle only one number.)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree
The average citizen can have an influence on grizzly bear management decisions	1	2	3	4	5
I have very little ability to protect my interests regarding grizzly bear management	1	2	3	4	5
I have the opportunity to provide input on grizzly bear management decisions	1	2	3	4	5
Wildlife agencies listen to my input	1	2	3	4	5
Wildlife agencies respect my way of life	1	2	3	4	5
Wildlife management is controlled by people who live outside of Montana	1	2	3	4	5

## Section 7 – Grizzly Bears in Montana

This section asks you about grizzly bear populations in different areas in Montana. Below is a map of Montana with seven general areas highlighted. Each area is numbered 1 through 7.



26. Using the map of Montana above, please complete the following statements for each area using the 1 to 5 scale, where 1 is “much too low” and 5 is “much too high”.

(For each row, please circle only one number.)

	...much too low	...too low	...the right size	...too high	...much too high	I don't know
The number of grizzly bears in area 1 is...	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
The number of grizzly bears in area 2 is...	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
The number of grizzly bears in area 3 is...	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
The number of grizzly bears in area 4 is...	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
The number of grizzly bears in area 5 is...	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
The number of grizzly bears in area 6 is...	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
The number of grizzly bears in area 7 is...	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>

27. How acceptable or unacceptable is it to you to have grizzly bears living in the following areas in Montana? Please use the 1 to 5 scale, where 1 is “Very Unacceptable” and 5 is “Very Acceptable”.

(For each row, please circle only one number.)

	Very Unacceptable	Unacceptable	Neither	Acceptable	Very Acceptable	I don't know
Primarily forested areas that are mostly publicly owned	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Areas with a mix of forest, open land, agricultural land, and small towns	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Areas that are mostly agricultural land with small towns	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural areas on the fringes of suburban development	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Suburban and urban residential areas	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anywhere grizzly bears become established on their own	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Section 8 – About You

This last section asks a few questions about you.

28. How long have you lived at your current residence? If less than one year, please put 1.  
\_\_\_\_\_ (years)

29. What type of Montana resident are you? (Please check only one box.)

- ☐ Part-time resident  
☐ Full-time resident

30. About how many total acres do you own in Montana? \_\_\_\_\_ (acres)

If you don't own property, check here: ☐

31. Do you grow crops, raise livestock, or participate in any other agricultural/ranching activities in Montana? *(Please check only one box.)*

☐ No

☐ Yes..... If yes, please answer the following two additional questions:

a. What do you produce? *(Please check all that apply)*

☐ Livestock

☐ Fowl

☐ Crops

☐ Bees

☐ Other *(please specify)* \_\_\_\_\_

b. Do you mostly do this for profit or personal consumption?  
*(Please check only one box)*

☐ Profit

☐ Personal consumption

32. Are you a part of an outdoor industry in Montana?

☐ No

☐ Yes..... If yes, please answer the following additional question:

a. Is this industry closely associated with fish and/or wildlife?

☐ No

☐ Yes, *(please list industry)* \_\_\_\_\_

33. Are you in another industry that may be affected by grizzly bears?

☐ No

☐ Yes, *(please list industry)* \_\_\_\_\_

34. Do you hunt in Montana?

☐ No

☐ Yes

35. Do you participate in other outdoor recreation besides hunting in Montana?

☐ No

☐ Yes

36. How would you describe your knowledge of grizzly bears? *(Please check only one box.)*

☐ I don't know much about grizzly bears in Montana

☐ I know a bit about grizzly bears in Montana

☐ I know a fair amount about grizzly bears in Montana

☐ I consider myself an expert on grizzly bears in Montana

37. Have you had any of the following interactions with grizzly bears? (*Please check all that apply.*)

- ☐ I have watched a grizzly bear from afar at least once
- ☐ I have seen a grizzly bear when I was not in a vehicle
- ☐ I have seen a grizzly bear very close to my home
- ☐ A grizzly bear has damaged my property at least once
- ☐ I know people who have had their property damaged by grizzly bears at least once
- ☐ I have had an interaction with a grizzly bear that made me fear for my safety
- ☐ I have had none of these interactions

38. How would you characterize the area where you live? (*Please check only one box.*)

- ☐ Rural (you live in the country)
- ☐ Small town (less than 1,000 people)
- ☐ Mid-sized town (between 1,000 and 5,000 people)
- ☐ Large town (between 5,000 and 15,000 people)
- ☐ City (greater than 15,000 people)

39. What is the highest level of school you have completed? (*Please check only one box.*)

- ☐ Grade school
- ☐ High school / GED
- ☐ Some college
- ☐ College graduate
- ☐ Post graduate

40. What year were you born? \_\_\_\_\_ (year)

41. What is your gender? (*Please check only one box.*)

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Prefer not to disclose

Thank you for taking this survey. If you have any comments, please include them in the space below: \_\_\_\_\_

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